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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This 15th volume of the Journal is my second published as editor, and I am pleased to report that it follows the successful precedent of Volume 14, which, for the first time became available both online for members on our new IASS website (www.iass1.org) as well as in print in the new 8.5" X 11" format (available for members to pick up at the annual meeting, as we are no longer mailing hard copies to members except by request and for an additional fee). Volume 15, as with Volume 14, will be indexed and available through EBSCO, and JIASS will be listed in Cabell's Directory (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance). All of these developments represent important milestones for both the Journal and the Academy and will ensure their successful transition to the 21st century of scholarly communication.

Since the start of my tenure as editor (beginning with Volume 14), submission of papers to JIASS is no longer limited to papers presented at the annual meeting and conference, and as in the previous volume, Volume 15 includes a paper or two not presented at the IASS annual meeting. While the majority of submissions I receive still originate from our annual meeting, I continue to receive papers for review that have no ties to the annual meeting. My commitment is simply to publish the best social science scholarship available, period.

To ensure quality and fairness, each and every article submission is subject to a double-blind peer-review process that involves at least two and, in the overwhelming majority of cases, three referees (two referees only when a paper's topic is so specialized as to make finding a third referee nearly impossible and impractical). As a result of our new emphasis on quality first, the acceptance rate for JIASS has become 20%–25% of papers submitted (the student acceptance rate is 10%). Because of this, the journal no longer endeavors to publish one paper from each of the disciplines represented by the IASS in every volume. Some disciplines may have more than one paper represented, while others may have none. This volume continues with the practice of publishing exceptional undergraduate and/or graduate student papers—in this case, two undergraduate honors theses. A new innovation is the introduction of a Research Notes/Commentary section for the publication of interesting articles on noteworthy or timely topics—in this issue, the importance for Indiana of developing a regional mindset.

Once again, I want to thank and recognize my associate editors, Jaishankar Raman and Dulce Maria Scott, for their assistance, insight, and guidance throughout the editorial review process. I specially want to thank the many reviewers who served as referees of papers: The authors, IASS, and I owe you many thanks for helping to preserve the high-quality reputation of JIASS.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Sociology Department at Butler for their support.

Ken Colburn